



## Broncos Re-Acquire Ricky Williams



April 24th, 2011: The Broncos said hello again to an old friend, re-acquiring veteran running back Ricky Williams from the New York Giants one year after trading him away. The Broncos had to part with the Giants fourth round draft pick in the upcoming draft, acquired by Denver in the original deal a year ago, plus veteran outside linebacker Na'il Diggs. The draft pick is the 17th in the fourth round, the 101st overall.

"With the loss of both Chris Brown and Glen Coffee in the last month, it was no secret we were in the market for a running back to team with Lendale White," General Manager Hank Sienzant said after the trade was consummated. "There were a number of attractive backs we could have had, but in some cases we felt we would have to surrender too much. We gave up a lot to get Ricky back. However, Ricky is familiar with our system and has played well in it in the past. All things considered, we felt Ricky gave us the biggest bang for our buck."

"We hated to part with Na'il," Sienzant explained, "but that sometimes is the cost of doing business in the ISFL." Last year, Diggs played in 14 games with 31 tackles, one fumble recovery, and one forced fumble. He also added three deflections and one hurry. He has been neck-and-neck with second year linebacker Robert Ayers in a fight for the strong-side outside linebacker position, with Ayers now being the clear front-runner for the position.

Now 33 years old, Ricky Williams had a rejuvenation of sorts with the Giants, and came on very strong at the end of the season last year. He rushed for over one hundred yards in three of the Giants final four games, and finished the year with 1090 yards on 220 carries, averaging nearly five yards a carry. He caught 29 passes for another 193 yards, and scored eight touchdowns overall, six on the ground and two on receptions. He showed he still has good years left in football, saving his best for last. In week 16, in a game the Giants had to win to clinch a playoff spot, Williams showed up big, rushing for 149 yards on 31 carries and catching six passes for another 47 and a score.

"When we reviewed the tapes of that game, Ricky proved he was in shape and could still play. We will team up Ricky with Lendale White as we have in the past," Sienzant said. Our intent is to keep a fresh back in the game, and with two proven backs in Williams and White, we now feel comfortable addressing other needs in the draft in the early rounds."